



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/781,642	02/12/2001	Takashi Sugitou	55587(1004)	8394
21874	7590	04/10/2007	EXAMINER	
EDWARDS ANGELL PALMER & DODGE LLP			POON, KING Y	
P.O. BOX 55874			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
BOSTON, MA 02205			2625	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/10/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/781,642	SUGITOU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	King Y. Poon	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,2 and 7-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 7-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beaudet et al (US 5,511,150) in view applicant's admitted prior art (fig. 1 of applicant's disclosure and JP application Laid-Open Hei 8 No. 212021, page 1 applicant's disclosure).

For explanation of Beaudet, please refer to this example.

Example: copy printing job A (e.g., the job disclosed on page 2, lines 38-40) is currently printed and displaying fig. 4I, (column 9, lines 5-15, column 9, lines 60-78). The display of 4I during printing of copy printing job A is now referred as display A. After a set of copy printing job A is finished, the system go to subroutine X, fig. 3F, column 9, lines 10-20, and the fixed time (TP) is set to 0 (column 9, lines 13-15), subroutine X will allow the next interrupt copy printing job B to be entered.

Regarding claim 1: Beaudet teaches a multifunctional printing system (column 3, line 1) wherein image information captured through an image information pickup means (scanner, column 3, lines 10-15) can be printed as multiple sets of copies (column 1, lines 30-35) by a printing means (marking means, column 3, lines 20-25) and which is configured so that the printing operation can be stopped only at intervals from one set of

Art Unit: 2625

copies to the next or every certain number of printouts, comprising: a computing means (control logics/programs of the copier, column 7, lines 9-12, column 10, lines 6) for calculating the time (display A) at which an interrupt copy and printing job (copy printing job B) can be entered next relative to an ongoing copying and printing job (copy printing job A), based on the designated number of print sets (column 9, lines 7-8, column 10, lines 1-5, column 1, lines 30-35), the current state of printing (the copier disable or not, column 6, lines 60-65), the information as to whether an interrupt is permissible (column 10, line 3); and a display means (display A) for displaying the permissible interrupt time calculated by the computing means.

Beaudet does not teach, display, during such an interrupt job (copy printing job B) the finish time of the interrupt job calculated by the computer means (display B).

However, JP 021 teaches calculating the finish time of a printing job and displaying such finish time of the printing job such that the user will not be kept waiting when he/she comes to pick up the printouts (page 1, applicant's specification).

Since the interrupt copy printing job entered by the user takes time to print and will keep user waiting for an unknown time if the finished time is not calculated and displayed to the user, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Beaudet to include: calculating and displaying the finish time of the interrupted copy and printing job B such that the user will not be kept waiting when he/she comes to pick up the printouts

Regarding claim 2: Beaudet teaches a multifunctional printing system (column 3, line 1) wherein image information captured through an image information pickup

Art Unit: 2625

means (scanner, column 3, lines 10-15) can be printed as multiple sets of copies (column 1, lines 30-35) by a printing means (marking means, column 3, lines 20-25) and which is configured so that the printing operation can be stopped only at intervals from one set of copies to the next or every certain number of printouts and so that the printing operation needs to be stopped in order to allow an interrupt job (column 9, lines 9-20), comprising: a computing means (control logics/programs of the copier, column 7, lines 9-12, column 10, lines 6) for calculating the time at which an interrupt copy and printing job (copy printing job B) can be entered next (display A) relative to an ongoing copying and printing job (copy printing job A), based on the designated number of print sets (column 9, lines 7-8, column 10, lines 1-5, column 1, lines 30-35), the current state of printing (the copier disable or not, column 6, lines 60-65), the information as to whether an interrupt is permissible (column 10, line 3); and a display means (display A) during such an ongoing copying and printing job for displaying the permissible termination time calculated by the computing means.

Beaudet does not teach, display, during such an interrupt job (copy printing job B) the finish time of the interrupt job calculated by the computer means (display B).

However, JP 021 teaches calculating the finish time of a printing job and displaying such finish time of the printing job such that the user will not be kept waiting when he/she comes to pick up the printouts (page 1, applicant's specification).

Since the interrupt copy printing job entered by the user takes time to print and will keep user waiting for an unknown time if the finished time is not calculated and display to the user, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art

at the time the invention was made to have modified Beaudet to include: calculating and displaying the finish time of the interrupted copy and printing job B such that the user will not be kept waiting when he/she comes to pick up the printouts.

Regarding claim 7: Beaudet teaches wherein the display means displays the time or time length in response to the operation of a dedicated key which allows for input of a display request (column 9, lines 4-10, fig. 4D, interrupt job is a dedicated key which allows the display of fig. 4I).

Regarding claim 8: Beaudet teaches wherein the display means displays the time or time length when the key for requesting an interrupt is operated (column 9, lines 4-10, fig. 4D, interrupt job is a dedicated key which allows the display of fig. 4I).

3. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beaudet as applied to claims 1, 2 above, and further in view of Brown et al (US 5,327,487).

Regarding claim 9: Beaudet does not teach a voice generating means for informing the time or the time length via voice is provided instead of the display means.

Brown, in the same area of transmitting message to a user in a copier environment teaches message can be conveyed to a user by display and voice message (column 3, lines 1-15).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Beaudet's message conveying method to include: a voice generating means for informing the time or the time length via voice is provided instead of the display means.

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Beaudet by the teaching of Brown to have allowed blind person having the privilege of using Beaudet's copier machine.

Response to Arguments

With respect to applicant's argument that Beaudet does not teach a print job interrupt mode because Beaudet does not designate a mode in which the current ongoing job is immediately interrupted; has been considered.

In reply: the claim clearly is claiming calculating a time at which an interrupt printing job can be entered next. In other words, the interrupt job cannot immediately interrupted another job until the time has passed.

Fig. 4I Beaudet clearly teaches such limitation.

With respect to applicant's argument that Beaudet does not teach that in the case of an allowed interruption, the time until the completion of that interruption is displayed; has been considered.

In reply: it is agree that Beaudet text unfortunately does not specifically describe the entire flow of the logic program (see applicant's argument filed 1/22/2007, page 12, lines 1-3).

However, Fig. 4I clearly teaches informing users the time the interruption of a current print job is allowed and, fig. 4D teaches informing user the time a print job is to be finished. Therefore Beaudet clearly teaches informing user the time a print job is to

be finished and the time the interruption of a current print job is allowed. Therefore, there is no reason why during the time the interrupted job is under the printing process, the time to finish the interrupted job is not being displayed.

Beaudet text unfortunately does not specifically describe the entire flow of the logic program. The examiner, although still believes Beaudet implies applicant's invention, can see why applicant is not convinced.

Accordingly, the previous action has been withdrawn and a new ground of rejection is being applied.

Beaudet does not teach, display, during such an interrupt job (copy printing job B) the finish time of the interrupt job calculated by the computer means (display B).

However, JP 021 teaches calculating the finish time of a printing job and displaying such finish time of the printing job such that the user will not be kept waiting when he/she comes to pick up the printouts (page 1, applicant's specification).

Since the interrupt copy printing job entered by the user takes time to print and will keep user waiting for an unknown time if the finished time is not calculated and display to the user, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Beaudet to include: calculating and displaying the finish time of the interrupted copy and printing job B such that the user will not be kept waiting when he/she comes to pick up the printouts.

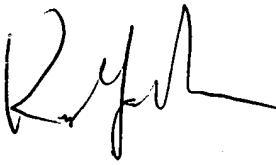
Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to King Y. Poon whose telephone number is 571-272-7440. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on 571-272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

April 2, 2007



KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER